

NIH Director's Council of Public Representatives Liaison Report

Wendy Chaite, J.D.
**COPR Liaison to the
Advisory Committee to
the Director**



Role of the COPR/ACD Liaisons

- **COPR/ACD Liaisons**

Wendy Chaite, COPR Liaison

(Term Ends: March 31, 2007)

Annelise Barron, ACD Liaison

(Term Ends: December 31, 2007)

- **Liaison Role Goals:**

1. Enhance communication between ACD and COPR
2. Provide public input to the ACD and scientific input to the COPR
3. Draw connections and create linkages between ACD and COPR efforts and activities
4. Identify opportunities to build bridges across scientific communities, the NIH, and the public

COPR's Role

- *The NIH Director's Council of Public Representatives (COPR) is a federal advisory committee made up of members of the public, who advise the NIH Director on issues related to the public*
- COPR members serve as a public “voice” to the NIH by:
 - bringing important matters of public interest to NIH leadership
 - helping increase public participation in the many NIH activities and initiatives that affect the public
 - increasing public understanding of the NIH and its programs

Examples of Recent COPR Contributions

- Provided input into NIH Strategic Communications Plan
- Provided input into NIH Public Trust Initiative Development, Activities, and Efforts
- Participated in NIH Plain Language Award Program

Examples of 2006 COPR Contributions

- Participated in five Roadmap/OPASI Consultation meetings
- Added a fourth “P” (*Participatory*) to NIH Director’s message and presentations
- COPR/ACD Liaison idea: NIH OER explores alternatives for supplemental funding of high scoring unfunded applications via outside support (voluntaries, foundations)

COPR Ideas and Input to NIH Director (Nov. 3, 2006, COPR Mtg)

COPR requested NIH comments and responses regarding:

- Currently funded IC research that includes community engagement and public involvement
- Effective strategies to enhance competency among researchers for involving the public in research
- NIH award and training development programs to enhance engagement of the public
- Building an evidence base for engaging communities and involving the public

COPR Ideas and Input to NIH Director (Nov. 3, 2006, COPR Mtg)

- Public input at all phases of the NIH grant process (where appropriate), especially the initial phases, such as, concept design and the writing of the proposal
- Collaborations (where appropriate) between community organizations as equal partners with research institutions
- Educational tools or resources for researchers that demonstrate the benefits of community engagement and identify the variety of ways the public can be engaged in the research process
- Best practices for public engagement by investigators

Why is it important to involve the public in the research process?

- The public can add value to the research process
- An engaged public leads to increased understanding of how the nation's health is improved through research and discovery
- Building researcher competency around public participation in research will build the public's trust in research
- The public can help to identify how to enhance public participation in clinical trials

Enhancing the Connection Between ACD and COPR

- Build the ACD/COPR connection via the evolving liaison role
- Create an ACD/COPR Liaison Update e-letter after each meeting and share with the COPR and ACD listservs
- Encourage ACD members to attend at least one COPR meeting (Next COPR Meeting: April 18–20, 2007)
- Encourage COPR members to attend ACD meetings
- Gather input from ACD on and for COPR initiatives

Questions and Comments

- Comments by ACD Liaison to COPR Annelise Barron, Ph.D.
- ACD Member Comments